

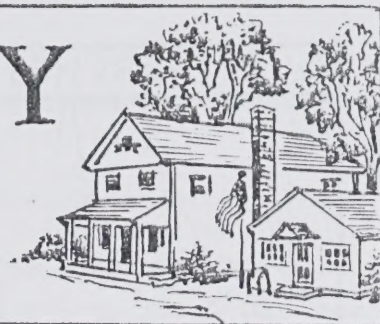
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MONTEREY NEWS



May, 1976

OUR TOWN



On Monday, May 1st, the Town gathered for its annual meeting. The number attending was smaller than usual -- about 100 -- and perhaps this helped account for the expeditiousness of the business transacted. There were discussions, but no controversies.

Election results were as follows:

Moderator: Dean Amidon (104) Eugene O'Connell (132)
Selectman: Thomas Bradley (uncontested) (204)
Town Clerk: Suzanne MacIver (uncontested) (225)
Auditor: William Stevens (uncontested) (218)
Assessor: Paul E. Thorn (uncontested) (216)

Library Trustees: Newman Abercrombie (210)

Jill Ensign (148)

Elizabeth Wool (65)

Cemetery Commission: Peter Phillips (117)

Donald Amstead, Jr. (118)

Finance Committee: John Ryder (uncontested) (214)

Planning Board: Paul E. Thorn (uncontested) (200)

Park Commission: Maryellen Brown (uncontested) (218)

Then to the 28 Articles on the Warrant. Most of them passed without discussion. Under Article 3, covering the Town Budget, the appropriation for Assessors' Expenses (\$1,200) was considered inadequate, in view of the fact that the Assessors wish to hire a clerk-secretary who would also be available to other boards and committees under the administration of the Board of Assessors. An extra \$4,800 was added to the budget for this item.

Article 22, the so-called "Hold Harmless" clause, engendered considerable discussion on the legal technicalities involved. The Selectmen will seek for an appropriate policy to indemnify Town officers out of the insurance budget.

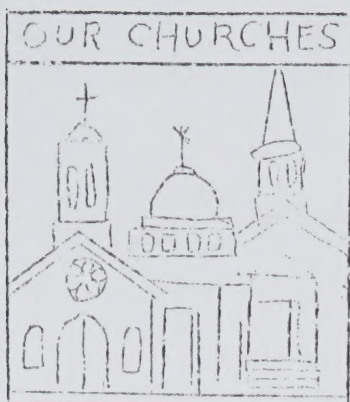
During the course of the meeting a standing ovation was given to William Mielke for his years of service as Moderator.

At the end of the meeting it was proposed to create an "Eyesore Committee" to bring about improvement in the appearance of properties in the Town. This is particularly important in relation to the summer tourist population, who pay 3/4 of our taxes. The motion was approved by the majority of the meeting, and the Selectmen will form a committee.

After the meeting the new fire truck was on display. Ray Tryon, Fire Chief, beamed over the top of the hood and the Townspeople stroked it reverently.

New Nursing Home in Great Barrington

On Monday, May 10, the 50 patients of the Berkshire Hills Nursing Home in Monterey were moved to "Willow Wood," the new facility on Christian Hill Road in Great Barrington. It is spacious and attractively furnished. The colors are tasteful and harmonious. It does not look like a nursing home! By the end of the week there will be a total of about 185 patients. Mr. Curtis Ivey is the director, assisted by his son, Mr. Arthur Ivey. Mr. Arthur Ivey will also be directing the Lee Nursing Home. The Berkshire Hills Home will be for ambulatory patients, requiring only custodial care.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Schaill has been sent to help in the parish until Father Dion returns on May 24.

The Catholic Charities Drive in early May in Monterey achieved its goal.

Mass at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday at the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Morning Worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. . . .

Notes Dr. Brallier conducted the wedding of Cary O'Connor and Sylvia Calvin on May 1st at a home ceremony.

Members Received

On Sunday, May 16, the following were received into membership by letter of transfer: Ellen Blount, Nancy Loder, Lois Rose, Lucy Smith, Nancy Smith. Those who were received as associate members were: The Rev. Cory Loder, The Rev. Stephen Rose, Hedy Craven, Neel Mahn, Helmi Oswald, Selden and Susan Whitaker. The sacrament of holy communion was celebrated. The congregation gathered for a coffee hour reception honoring the new members following the morning worship. Olivia (Lennie) Williams was also to be received, but became the mother of a new daughter, Julia, during the preceding week.

Pentecost Sunday

Plans are underway for a festive celebration of Pentecost Sunday on June 6. A committee was named by the Parish Council to make plans for the day. It is composed of Elizabeth Simons, Marie Brallier, Cory and Nancy Loder, with Dr. Brallier as ex officio member. Increasingly Pentecost is being regarded as one of the high festivals of the Church. The plans for its celebration are to help lift up the importance and significance of the day.

17/76 Achievement Fund

At the Parish Council last week it was announced that our church's participation in the 17/76 Achievement Fund has now reached pledges and gifts of \$4,200. This was a source of genuine satisfaction, since a goal of \$3,000 had been set early in the campaign. This fund is to be used primarily to upgrade the black colleges affiliated with the United Church. Any persons or families who have not yet stated their intentions, yet who wish to have a part in this effort, are asked to contact Rose McKee or Gertrude Gould, treasurer.

Package License Request Denied

A prospective buyer for the Monterey Store asked if the church might be willing to waive the provision that liquor sales cannot be within a specified distance of a church. On May 2 the church voted "no" to the request, both regarding a seasonal license and a year-round one.

MONTEREY

In early summer with the scent of May
A restless yearning creeps into my day,
A faint, sweet sound from far away ---
Listen! 'Tis the call of Monterey.

Like swallows who fly north in early spring
Had we the gift of flight we'd soar and sing
And take our way with fancy running free
Back to our hills and lake and hemlock tree.

What is the secret of this deep content?
What gives us leave to call the days "well spent."
That measures off our summers year by year;
There is a spell upon the place, I fear,

A sweet and subtle spell quite green and fresh
And if it catches us within its mystic mesh
And holds us so until the turn of fall
None has complaint, it is the wish of all.

Rachel Young Lutz

(Rachel Lutz was a beloved member of the summer Elephant Rock community until her death in 1974.)

LESSONS FROM SICKNESS

Last month the flu laid me low. I was so weakened that I sometimes found myself despairing of my life -- and at other times I was not sure I wanted to go on living. Looking back I find some of the thinking I did strange. Yet it was very real at the time. Recalling that time I would like to reflect on some dimensions of the human condition. A time of sickness or special need helps us see things that may always have been true. Yet our day-to-day living frequently obscures these truths.

One of the first things I was made to observe was how vulnerable we are in our humanity. Ordinarily we do not see the thin line that separates well-being and catastrophe. Yet some episode such as sickness forces us to see how thin is the margin between well-being and tragedy. Here is a person light-heartedly driving a car down the road, yet ten seconds later he may be involved in an accident that could mean months on end in the hospital with untold suffering. Or here is a person who has a good job, a comfortable home, and feels financially secure, yet a series of events may follow which could open up a vulnerability which earlier could never have been imagined. One year we may seem financially secure, yet some months later we may be up against the wall.

Not only are we humans vulnerable physically and financially, but we have a spiritual-personal vulnerability as well. Though I hope and trust it may not be so, there is simply no way I can promise you that I will not meet a spiritual-personal catastrophe during the next year of my life. I just do not have any way of knowing the events that will overtake me in the days and months that lie ahead. You and I have no assurance that overwhelming struggles of the soul may not come to us. Can any one of us guarantee that out of these wrestlings we may not be bitter, resentful, bruised, with a life and faith shaken to the very roots of our beings? Truly, there is a great vulnerability in our humanness. We would do well never to forget this.

A second observation grown out of my sickness: How awesomely dependent we are on others! Day by day in my life I may make what I call "independent" decisions. I may even convince myself I am a very independent person. Yet there is nothing like a powerful sickness to remind us how thoroughly our lives are intertwined with others. Sickness may reduce us to almost total dependence on others. The most basic necessities must come to us at the hands of others. After our sickness we may try to convince ourselves that this is a condition that lasts only so long as we are sick. Yet a bit of reflection must convince us that day by day our livelihood and well-being are deeply intertwined with others. We may resist the word "dependence." Call it any other name you choose, still it is true that our lives literally "hang from" the lives of others.

Another impression came to me from the sick room. We are alone. True, others may be around us, care for us, love us. Yet, in a way deeper than we ordinarily realize, each of us stands ultimately alone. Off in the sick room we hear the routine sounds of the household. Life is going on its way, but we are off alone, very much by ourselves. Even the best wishes of others cannot remove the aloneness into which sickness casts us. Alone, inside our own skins, the battle to live goes on -- and others, regardless of their caring for us, cannot do what we must do alone. This is true of everyday life too. In so many very important ways there simply are areas of privacy and aloneness in our lives. So much of personal destiny is shaped in this aloneness. No matter how much they try, others cannot make decisions that ultimately only you can make for yourself and I must make for myself.

From the sick room there came also the knowledge of how tough and resilient we are at the core. Ordinarily we may be in despair. We may be convincing ourselves that it is just too much of a struggle to go on living with this burden of weakness and pain. Yet what is it that doesn't give up in spite of so much of us that is ready to throw in the towel? Let us thank God that something deeper and stronger than our despairing moods lives within us. True, it was beyond my grasping or controlling, but I recognized even in my sickest moments that there was a strand embedded in the deepest part of my personality that was tough, strong, resilient -- and it was not about to lightly throw in the towel. More and more I am coming to recognize this quality in others as well. While one part of them is talking of giving up, another small but powerful voice is saying within them, "Don't you dare!"

Finally, from the sick room I was made to see that we humans are oriented toward health rather than sickness. True, sickness, dysfunction, breakdown seem to be on the attack whichever way we look. Yet look at the way our bodies throw all kinds of reserves into the fray when they are under the attack of sickness. Look at the way the mind and the emotions seek a new equilibrium when we are thrown off balance by some shattering event. The marvelous processes that come into play immediately seeking a new balance, a new equilibrium, in our periods of breakdown speak a clear message to us. They tell us beyond the shadow of a doubt that our lives are aimed toward health more than toward sickness. And in this I build my trust both for myself and for others.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ



Elizabeth Otter and Virgil Stucker have announced their engagement, to be married on August 7. They plan an outdoor wedding, at the Farm, with Kent Smith performing the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stucker, parents of the groom, will come from their home in Wisconsin to attend the wedding. In October Virgil and Liz will be married a second time, at a church service near Frankfurt, West Germany, where Liz's parents live.

Randy and Brynn Schmidt returned May 1st from a two-months' vacation trip. In their trailer bus they covered a large part of the southeastern and southwestern United States, traveling from the Atlantic Ocean in North Carolina to the Pacific coast in Baha, California. It was for the most part a camping trip, although they also visited relatives in various states. They stopped in state and national parks, covering, among many scenic spots, the Carlsbad Caverns, the Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest and White Sands National Park.

The directors' committee on the new guest residence met May 7 at the office of the architect, Terry L. Block, in Pittsfield. Twelve bids had been submitted by contractors from western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut. The committee them carefully and is to make its final decision shortly. It is expected that construction will start soon after that.

Rose McKee

MONTEREY GRANGE #291

Monterey Grange #291 met on April 21. Special Deputy MacWhinnie was present and spoke on Grange aims and benefits. The charter was draped for the late Floyd McKay. Members and visitors enjoyed a variety program which included readings, skits and a hat trimming contest by Brothers. There was a country store to earn money for Home and Community projects. We have four entries in the State Grange Sewing Contest, also five entered in the Needlework Contest.

At the May 5 meeting 3rd and 4th degrees were conferred on eight candidates. Five were from Monterey, one from Lenox and one from Sandisfield. Mary Wallace was Master of the third degree and David MacWhinnie of the fourth. There were 58 members and friends present. Deputy Maurice Brazie made his official visitation.

The next meeting will be May 19 for a Mother's Day, memorial and music program. Agnes Pizzichemi and Elizabeth Pizzichemi have entered the State Grange Contest.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

NEW MARLBOROUGH-MONTEREY PTA

There was a sale of baked goods and plants at the spring Open House, the proceeds of which went to the scholarship fund.

There will be one more meeting before the summer to elect officers for next year and discuss future programs. At that time the scholarship recipients will be announced.

Cynthia Weber
President

COMMUNITY STORE COMMITTEE

The Community Store Committee reports that its fund raising Tag Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 29, from 10:00 to 4:00 in Greene Park. The committee will welcome donations of abandoned furniture, tools, glassware, orphaned toys or books, discarded sports equipment -- in short, all the dregs, lees, chaff and dross of everybody's spring cleaning. Donors may arrange to have these items picked up on Saturday, May 22, by calling either Barbara Gauthier (528-1624) or David Raney (523-1988) some time during the next several days. In case of rain, the sale will be held in the church basement.

Ellen Blount



The Monterey Historical Society will have a red, white and blue patchwork quilt to sell chances on, in order to raise money to complete the museum. It is quilted and a version of the "Drunkard's Path" pattern.

Sally Fijux
President



GIRL SCOUTS

Brownies

The Brownie troop held their own roadside clean-up by picking up trash on the old road to Benedict Pond. This month the girls will be planting flowers in the boxes at the Post Office. The colors will be red, white and blue.

Junior Girl Scouts

The girls made up clothespin dolls and Mother's Day cards for their mothers. Girl Scout cookies are being delivered this month.

Cadettes

The Cadettes held a food sale on May 1st in Monterey. The proceeds will go toward a trip to Washington, D.C. in August. The girls realized \$56 from the sale.

Girl Scout cookies are being delivered and there are extra packages for those that were missed by the girls in April. Those who wish to purchase more should phone Mrs. Carl Bynack, 528-2314.

CUB SCOUTS AND WEBELOS

The Cub Scouts and Webelos held a Pack meeting on May 7 at the Town Hall in Mill River in the Historic Room. Slides were shown on the Knox Trail event in Monterey and also on old mill sites in Mill River. Twenty boys received Bicentennial patches for participating in the Knox Trail event and visiting the mill sites in Mill River.

The Boy Scout Show was held again this year at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield on Saturday, May 15. Eleven boys received patches for selling tickets for this event.

The boys will be in the Norman Rockwell Parade in Stockbridge on May 23 at one o'clock.

The last meeting for the two troops will be a picnic in June at Benedict Pond.

LITTLE LEAGUE

The Little League is holding practice every Saturday. Leroy Thorpe is the coach, with assistance from Bob Gauthier. The regular season will start around May 26.

4-H CLUBS

The County 4-H Poultry Club held their April meeting in Monterey, with eighteen boys and girls attending from all over the county. The next meeting will be held in Dalton on May 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grace Episcopal Church, Main Street. The subject will be incubation, egg selection, etc.

On April 22 another vegetable judging contest was held and Mark Makuc again scored highest in the county. The next session will be held on May 21 at the Berkshire Gas Company in Pittsfield at 7:30 p.m.

Shawn Ryder won an "excellent" plus the State Blue Rosette for his Visual Presentation at Bolton, Massachusetts. His subject was "How to Develop Black and White Film."

The Monterey Roadrunners and the Monterey Panhandlers have finished their 4-H projects for the year.

MONTEREY CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group attended an Association of Youth meeting in Richmond on May 16. The meeting was on Youth Camps. Regular meetings are held every Sunday at 5 p.m.

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS, TRUCK OWNERS AND DRIVERS, FOR A FINE
ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP ! JACK AND LOIS RYDER

Lois Ryder
Youth Editor

Daughter Born to Matt and Lennie Williams

On May 10 Selectman Matt Williams and his wife, Lennie, welcomed a third daughter, Julia Gail, into their family.

Margery Janes Wins Award for Sonnet

Last month Margery Janes (who writes under the name of Margery Mansfield) won a \$500 award for her Madeline Mason sonnet. She journeyed to New York, where the Poetry Society of America presented the award. A Madeline Mason sonnet is a variation on the Elizabethan or Petrarchan sonnet, rearranging the rhyme scheme and eliminating the rhyming couplet found in the Shakespeare sonnet. There were 40 entries in the contest. Margery Mansfield's sonnet follows:

BUT IF HE WRITES A POEM

... But if he writes a poem, all is well.
The world, which sulked at God, is reconciled,
And what was upside down snaps right side up.
Our times swing clear of all the coils of hell;
The poet is new-born, a little child
Who drinks while God is steadying the cup.
His fortunes have no way to go but up.
He now is safe, whom fortune had exiled,
For he has done what he was born to do,
And so is one on whom salvation smiled.
All doctrines chimed as sweetly as a bell.
Such happiness is only for a few.
Ask any poet, he will say it's true,
That if he writes a poem, all is well.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

This month we have gratefully received contributions from the following: Mrs. Leon Howes, Mrs. Helen McKay and Mrs. David McCord, Mr. Marcel Pasche, Miss Janet Volckhausen, Mr. & Mrs Arthur Kyle Wing and The Rev. James Chase.

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